(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AIR and DD are incurring losses and are unable to match private players in quality and content of the programmes;

(d) if so, the revenue and expenditure of AIR and DD for the last three years with their average audience/viewership ratings for the last one year in relation to their major three to four competitors, during peak and non-peak timings, separately; and

(e) how would this situation be reversed in the proposed reorganisation exercise, apart from hiring expert advisors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that revamping of AIR and DD is a continuous process.

(c) Prasar Bharati as a Public Service Broadcaster, has a mandate to educate, entertain and inform the people and is not guided by commercial considerations. It would not be appropriate to compare Prasar Bharati with private broadcaster, which operate solely on profit basis. The content of programmes telecast/ broadcast over DD/AIR are of high quality so far as their national, social, educational, cultural and informative values are concerned.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FDI in TV News uplinking

4584. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been permitted in television news uplinking upto 26 per cent of the total paid-share capital;

(b) if so, the pattern of holding prescribed for balance 74 per cent share capital;

(c) whether as per the existing guidelines, the largest single shareholder can acquire the management of the company even if it happens to be a foreign media house; and

(d) if so, whether Government are aware that such an eventuality may compromise India's sovereignty and cultural integrity and homogeneity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) In the given socio-cultural environment of the country and keeping in view all concerns, including safety and security of the State, the Guidelines for uplinking of the foreign owned news channels were issued in March, 2003. The Guidelines, *inter alia*, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) Foreign media houses are unlikely to acquire management of the Company as the Guidelines require CEO, majority of Directors and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Setting up of electronic news gathering (ENG) units in Orissa

4585. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal to set up Electronic News Gathering (ENG) Units at Koraput and Baripada;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the State for providing visual clippings to Doordarshan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Private players in FM stations

4586. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit private players in FM stations;

(b) if so, the number of players awarded the licences during the last three years togetherwith their details and licence fee collected from each ;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of the 108 FM stations in 40 cities that were on offer for privatisation, only 13 stations have been taken up; and